UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA Alexandria Division

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

:

-vs- : Case No. 1:19-cr-57

:

SANG THANH HUYNH,

Defendant. :

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PRELIMINARY and DETENTION HEARING

September 12, 2019

Before: Michael S. Nachmanoff, U.S. Mag. Judge

## APPEARANCES:

James L. Trump, Counsel for the United States
Marvin D. Miller, Counsel for the Defendant

The Defendant, Sang Thanh Huynh, in person

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- 2 A. I work at the Northern Virginia agent -- resident agency
- 3 on an organized crime squad.
- 4 Q. Does that include gang activity?
- 5 A. Yes, it does.
- 6 Q. Have you been the -- one of the case agents on an
- 7 | investigation involving a gang by the name of the Reccless
- 8 Tigers?
- 9 A. Yes, I am.
- 10 Q. Prior to that, did you also investigate other Northern
- 11 Virginia gangs?
- 12 A. Yes, I did.
- 13 Q. Did that include a gang known as DF or Dragon Family?
- 14 A. Yes, it did.
- 15 Q. And also ADF, or Asian Dragon Family?
- 16 A. Yes, it did.
- 17 Q. Are you familiar with the defendant?
- 18 A. Yes, I am.
- 19 Q. And do you recognize him?
- 20 A. Yes, I do.
- 21 Q. How is it that you recognize the defendant?
- 22 A. I recognize him because on the Dragon Family case, he's a
- 23 | nephew of the primary target at that time. He was captured on
- 24 TIII intercepts at that time also.
- 25 Q. And when was that?

- 2 Q. Have you seen photos of him as well?
- 3 A. Yes, I have.
- 4 Q. Where was he arrested most recently?
- 5 A. He was arrested in Corona, California.
- 6 Q. And by whom?
- 7 A. By the FBI.
- 8 Q. Where was he living at the time?
- 9 A. He was living with a friend.
- 10 Q. Was he living under his own name in terms of any rental
- 11 agreement, lease agreement, or otherwise?
- 12 A. No, he was not.
- 13 Q. Was he driving a vehicle?
- 14 A. Yes, he was.
- 15 Q. Was that vehicle registered in his name?
- 16 A. No, it was not.
- 17 Q. In whose name was it registered?
- 18 A. A Mr. Hong Nguyen.
- 19 Q. Are you familiar with that name?
- 20 A. Yes, I am.
- 21 Q. And why is that?
- 22 A. The same person also rented a condominium at the Mosaic
- 23 District for Mr. Sang Huynh too.
- 24 Q. And the Mosaic District is where?
- 25 A. Here in Virginia.

- 2 | individual from Virginia?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And that apartment in the Mosaic, when was that?
- 5 A. That was August of last year.
- 6 Q. And based on your investigation, what was that apartment
- 7 used for?
- 8 A. To accept packages, drugs, parties, meetings.
- 9 Q. Have you seen some -- or have you identified for today's
- 10 hearing some photographs?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. I would like to pass to the Court and the witness -- can
- 13 | we have these marked as Exhibit 1 for identification?
- 14 THE COURT: You may.
- MR. TRUMP: And I provided counsel a copy of these
- 16 yesterday, I believe.
- 17 BY MR. TRUMP: (Continuing)
- 18 Q. Are you familiar with these photographs?
- 19 A. Yes, I am.
- 20 Q. And where -- where did they come from?
- 21 A. Mr. Sang Huynh's Snapchat account.
- MR. MILLER: I'm sorry, who did you say?
- THE WITNESS: Mr. Huynh's Snapchat account.
- 24 BY MR. TRUMP: (Continuing)
- 25 Q. And that's a social media platform?

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. And the first photograph, who is depicted in that
- 3 photograph?
- 4 A. Mr. Huynh.
- 5 Q. How do you know that?
- 6 A. Through his tattoos, the necklaces, the Rolex -- and the
- 7 Rolex he wears.
- 8 Q. And what is depicted in that photograph?
- 9 A. A lot of marijuana, cough syrup, money, the Tiger emblem,
- 10 guns, and Hennessy.
- 11 Q. Now, there is a handwritten date on this photograph. What
- 12 is that?
- 13 A. That's the date the photograph was posted.
- 14 Q. Posted on Snapchat?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. The second photograph, what is depicted there?
- 17 A. That's Mr. Huynh holding a gun.
- 18 Q. And these are some of the same necklaces that are in the
- 19 | first photograph?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. And he is holding what?
- 22 A. A handgun.
- 23 Q. And what is the date on the top?
- 24 A. Mine's scored out.
- 25 Q. And that's the date posted on Snapchat?

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. The third photograph, and what is that?
- 3 A. That's Mr. Huynh holding a handgun.
- 4 Q. And again, how do you know that's him?
- 5 A. The tattoo.
- 6 Q. And the date is the date posted on Snapchat?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. The next photograph, number 4 in the series, what is that?
- 9 A. That's Mr. Huynh with a lot of Reccless Tigers members.
- 10 Q. And where is he in the photograph, for the Court?
- 11 A. He's right in the middle.
- 12 Q. Standing right behind him, who is that?
- 13 A. Mr. Richard Pak.
- 14 Q. Is he indicted in this case?
- 15 A. Yes, he is.
- 16 Q. And to the right as you're facing the photograph, who is
- 17 | that?
- 18 A. Mr. Pai.
- 19 Q. Another Reccless Tiger?
- 20 A. Yes, he is.
- 21 Q. And the bottom left, who is that?
- 22 A. Young Yoo.
- 23 Q. Is he a defendant in this case?
- 24 A. Yes, he is.
- 25 Q. Are there any other defendants in this case depicted in

- 1 | this photograph?
- 2 A. Yes, there is.
- 3 Q. Would you point them out to the Court.
- 4 A. So looking at the photo, to the left you have Starter, Kyu
- 5 Wa Hong. And right next to him is David Nguyen, also known as
- 6 DD.
- 7 Q. Starting to the left, YG or Young Yoo, what is he doing
- 8 | with his hand?
- 9 A. He's doing the Reccless Tigers gang symbol.
- 10 Q. And above the defendant, Richard Pak, what is he doing?
- 11 A. Richard Pak, the same thing, Reccless Tigers gang symbol.
- 12 Q. And are all the other gang signals Reccless Tiger signals
- 13 in this photograph?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. And the last photograph, what is that?
- 16 A. It's Mr. Huynh with other Reccless Tigers and Asian Boyz
- 17 gang members.
- 18 Q. And who is standing to the left as you're facing the
- 19 photograph?
- 20 A. That's Cee Lee, also known as Spade.
- 21 Q. And as you're facing the photograph, who is to the right?
- 22 A. To the right? I do not know that person.
- 23 Q. What gang signals are depicted in this photograph?
- 24 A. So in the middle, that's the Asian Boyz gang symbol.
- 25 Right behind it is the Reccless Tiger gang symbol. And the

- 1 person with the face shaded out, that's Tony Minh Le, also
- 2 known as Tiger, doing the Westside gang symbol.
- 3 Q. And who are the Asian Boyz?
- 4 A. The Asian Boyz is Spade and also Mr. Huynh.
- 5 Q. Where are they primarily located?
- 6 A. California.
- 7 Q. And what is there affiliation with the Reccless Tigers?
- 8 A. They-- the Reccless Tigers is a subset of the Asian Boyz.
- 9 Q. And the robe that is being worn by Tony Le?
- 10 A. Versace robe.
- 11 Q. What is the significance of a Versace robe?
- 12 A. It shows the hierarchy in the gang. Only the higher
- members get to wear the Versace robe.
- 14 Q. And is that sort of a gang protocol for the Reccless
- 15 Tigers, Versace merchandise and paraphernalia?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 MR. TRUMP: We would move these into evidence for
- 18 purposes of the hearing, Your Honor.
- 19 THE COURT: Any objection?
- 20 MR. MILLER: Not for this hearing only.
- 21 THE COURT: They will be admitted.
- 22 BY MR. TRUMP: (Continuing)
- 23 Q. Did the defendant have prior gang affiliation before the
- 24 Reccless Tigers and the Asian Boyz?
- 25 A. Yes, he did.

- 1 Q. And what gang was that?
- 2 A. His uncle was part of DF. He was part of ADF, that
- 3 historically worked for DF. And then when he got kicked out of
- 4 ADF, he started his own gang called SOG, Sons of Guan Yu. And
- 5 then he left the area, went to California, linked up with the
- 6 Asian Boyz, and then came back as a Reccless Tiger/Asian Boy.
- 7 Q. Getting back to his uncle, who was his uncle?
- 8 A. Phi Van Nguyen.
- 9 Q. And his uncle's brother?
- 10 A. Phuoc Nguyen.
- 11 Q. And what happened to Phuoc Nguyen?
- 12 A. Phuoc Nguyen was shot and killed and at the Eden Center
- 13 September 13, 2014.
- 14 Q. What was -- were Phi Nguyen and Phuoc Nguyen involved in
- 15 drug trafficking?
- 16 A. Yes, they were.
- 17 Q. And what type of drug trafficking?
- 18 A. Phi Nguyen ran a poly drug organization. He was into
- 19 | selling Molly and cocaine. He also got marijuana that he gave
- 20 | to Mr. Huynh and his younger brother Phuoc to resell.
- 21 Q. And was Phi Nguyen prosecuted in this court?
- 22 A. Yes, he was.
- 23 Q. Did he plead quilty?
- 24 A. Yes, he did.
- 25 Q. What was Phuoc Nguyen's role?

- 1 A. Phuoc Nguyen at that time was selling marijuana on behalf
- 2 of his brother.
- 3 Q. Are you familiar with an incident or May 22, 2017?
- 4 A. Yes, I am.
- 5 Q. What happened on May 22 of 2017?
- 6 A. In May 2017 Mr. Huynh and his younger brother got into a
- 7 | fight with a rival gang member, the guy's name was Michael
- 8 Francis Mill.
- 9 Q. And what's his younger brother's name?
- 10 A. Johnson.
- 11 Q. And do you believe that was the same person counsel was
- 12 talking about previously?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And what happened?
- 15 A. They beat up this rival gang member, and then they left
- 16 the area.
- 17 Q. And where did that take place?
- 18 A. At the Eden Center.
- 19 Q. Are you familiar with an incident that occurred on
- 20 August 19, 2011?
- 21 A. August 19, 2011? Yes, I am.
- 22 Q. And did that involve Fairfax County police?
- 23 A. Yes, it did.
- 24 Q. And what happened on August 19, 2011?
- 25 A. During a traffic stop Mr. Thanh -- Mr. Huynh took off

- 1 running and resisted arrest, and assaulted the police officer.
- Q. And who was that police officer?
- 3 A. At that time Police Officer Brian Byerson.
- 4 Q. And just coincidentally, is he also involved in this case?
- 5 A. Yes, he is.
- 6 Q. Is he assigned to Fairfax homicide?
- 7 A. Yes, he is.
- 8 Q. Are you familiar with a concert in April of 2017?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And where was that?
- 11 A. That was at The Ara.
- 12 Q. And who was performing at that concert?
- 13 A. Mr. Joseph Lamborn, also known as Trigga.
- 14 Q. Has he been charged in this case?
- 15 A. Yes, he has.
- 16 Q. What happened at the concert?
- 17 A. Reccless Tigers was there. A lot of ADF members were
- 18 there. And there was a fight where someone was shot by a
- 19 Reccless Tigers member.
- 20 Q. Has anyone been prosecuted for that?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Was the defendant present?
- 23 A. Yes, he was.
- 24 Q. How do you know that?
- 25 A. Through multiple interviews, other people told us he was

- 1 there.
- Q. Was there also an incident at a place called The Block?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. When was that?
- 5 A. The day right after The Ara.
- 6 Q. In April of 2017?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Where is The Block located?
- 9 A. In Annandale.
- 10 Q. And what happened at The Block?
- 11 A. A lot of Reccless Tigers members were there celebrating.
- 12 They got in an altercation with another group. There is video
- of Mr. Huynh striking people with chairs and other Reccless
- 14 Tigers members hitting other people with chairs. Other members
- 15 pulled out guns on individuals there too.
- 16 Q. Were any guns discharged?
- 17 A. At that -- yes.
- 18 Q. Was anyone injured?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. Are you familiar with an incident at a tattoo parlor in
- 21 December of 2017?
- 22 A. Yes, I am.
- 23 Q. What happened on December 27, 2017, at the tattoo parlor?
- 24 A. On that day Mr. Huynh was with three other Reccless Tigers
- 25 members, Douglas Martinez, Mr. Pai, and Mr. Young Yoo. Another

- 1 Reccless Tigers member, Peter Le, came with a bat to fight
- 2 | them. They subsequently took the bat away from him and beat
- 3 Mr. Peter Le up.
- 4 Q. And how do you know that Mr. Huynh was there?
- 5 A. We have him on surveillance camera.
- 6 Q. Was there a stabbing on December 18 of 2017?
- 7 A. Yes, there was.
- 8 Q. Who was the victim of the stabbing?
- 9 A. The victim was Nico Nguyen.
- 10 Q. And what happened?
- 11 A. Nico Nguyen was standing outside of Pho Anh Duong. From
- 12 reports, he said a black Mercedes with temporary tags came up,
- 13 | four individuals jumped out, he believed to be Asian, but they
- 14 had ski masks on, they struck him with a baton and a stick, and
- 15 | somebody stabbed him four times.
- 16 Q. Was Mr. Huynh involved with that?
- 17 A. We believe so.
- 18 Q. And how is -- why is it that you believe so?
- 19 A. Because a week after that incident was the Way of Ink
- 20 | fight. We saw him drive to the Way of Ink in the 2016 black
- 21 Mercedes E class with temporary tags.
- 22 Q. Was anyone arrested in that incident?
- 23 A. No one was.
- 24 Q. August 14, 2018, are you familiar with an incident on that
- 25 date?

- 1 A. Yes, I am.
- 2 Q. What happened on that date?
- 3 A. Mr. Huynh was shot that day, two times.
- 4 Q. And tell us what happened.
- 5 A. He was with a friend. Accordingly, his friend got shot in
- 6 the leg. He got shot in the groin and the left chest.
- 7 Q. Do you have any information as to why he was shot?
- 8 A. No, I do not.
- 9 Q. Now, have you had the opportunity to review -- have you
- 10 and other agents had the opportunity to review bank records
- 11 relating to this defendant?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And just in very summary form, what do the bank records
- 14 indicate?
- 15 A. The bank records show thousands and thousands, in the
- 16 hundreds of thousands, close to a million, money wired from Mr.
- 17 Huynh's accounts from here to California.
- 18 Q. What is the significance of California as it relates to
- 19 | the drug trafficking charges in this case?
- 20 A. California is where the gang gets all their marijuana
- 21 from.
- 22 Q. Now, were these transactions structured?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Approximately what was the -- what was the regular amount
- of deposits in this area that were then transferred to

- 21 Yes, I have. Α.
- 22 Is there one in particular you could bring to the
- 23 attention of the Court today?
- 24 Α. Yes, I am.
- 25 Q. And would you describe the context of the podcast.

- 21 The podcast is Mr. Huynh talking to the public, talking 1 Α. 2 about the gang. The history of the gang. The beef with ADF. 3 How his uncle died. How he -- he's part of the Reccless 4 Tigers/Asian Boyz, and that he will never let this beef go 5 away. MR. TRUMP: With the Court's permission, if we could, 6 we would like to play a portion of that because we think it 7 relates to the detention issues before the Court. 8 9 THE COURT: Any objection? 10 MR. MILLER: I haven't heard it before or aware of 11 it. So I don't know whether I would want to hear all of it or 12 just a portion. 13 MR. TRUMP: We will certainly make all of it 14 available to Mr. Miller. 15 THE COURT: Well, you may proceed. 16 And if you have an objection, you can lodge it as you 17 -- as we hear it. And we can address then how you want to 18 address that. 19 MR. MILLER: Could I voir dire the witness about that 20 one piece before it's played? 21 THE COURT: Okay.
- 22 MR. TRUMP: Judge, there is no jury.
- 23 THE COURT: What are you concerned about?
- 24 MR. MILLER: Well, the -- I want to ask him questions 25 about it to be sure that it's the appropriate one to be played

- 1 for the Court before the Court hears it.
- THE COURT: Well, I'll let you ask questions, to ask
- 3 him where he obtained the tape and how he identifies who it is.
- 4 MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.
- 5 THE COURT: If that's what you want to do.
- 6 MR. MILLER: You presaged my questions, Your Honor.
- 7 THE COURT: Very good. If you -- or, Mr. Trump, you
- 8 can lay the foundation for where this comes from.
- 9 MR. TRUMP: I was going to ask him a few predicate
- 10 questions.
- 11 THE COURT: Go ahead. I'll reserve my ruling on
- 12 | whether it can be played.
- MR. MILLER: Thank you.
- 14 BY MR. TRUMP: (Continuing)
- 15 Q. Now, you mentioned a phone that was seized by Metropolitan
- 16 Police. Was this the defendant's phone?
- 17 A. Yes, it was.
- 18 Q. And have you reviewed the information from the phone?
- 19 A. Yes, I have.
- 20 Q. And how do you know it was the defendant's phone?
- 21 A. That was the phone number that he gave Metropolitan
- 22 police, and that's the phone they had that day. That was the
- 23 phone they got the search warrant for too.
- Q. Does the podcast also contain video?
- 25 A. Yes, it does.

- Q. And what does the video depict?
- 2 A. Him in it.

- 3 MR. TRUMP: With that, I don't know if Mr. Miller has
- 4 any additional questions before we --
- 5 THE COURT: Are you moving to have it played at this
- 6 | time, Mr. Trump?
- 7 MR. TRUMP: I was going to ask him to play a very
- 8 brief portion of it.
- 9 THE COURT: And do you have an objection with regard
- 10 to foundation at this time?
- 11 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: And what is your objection?
- MR. MILLER: Well, can I ask him some foundations to
- 14 | raise with you, if you don't mind? It's a Riley foundation.
- THE COURT: I'm sorry?
- MR. MILLER: Riley versus California, how they got
- 17 | into the phone.
- 18 THE COURT: Well, you can ask the question, but I
- 19 | think that's been answered, which is they sought a warrant.
- MR. MILLER: I haven't heard that.
- 21 THE COURT: You may ask him that question right now.
- MR. MILLER: Thank you. All right.
- 23 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION
- 24 BY MR. MILLER:
- 25 Q. How did the D.C. police come into possession of the phone?

- 1 A. They got it the day he was shot.
- 2 Q. Okay. How did they get it the day he was shot?
- 3 A. He was the victim, and they collected it as evidence.
- 4 Q. Okay. And then how did they get into the content of the
- 5 phone?
- 6 A. They got a search warrant September 11, 2018.
- 7 Q. From which court?
- 8 A. From D.C. court.
- 9 Q. Okay. And did you acquire possession of the phone?
- 10 A. No, I did not.
- 11 Q. Okay. How is it you acquired the content of the phone?
- 12 A. I was given a working copy of the content of the phone.
- 13 Q. By --
- 14 A. The D.C. detective.
- 15 Q. Okay. And you executed no process, that was just an
- 16 exchange between the two of you, so to speak?
- 17 A. Correct.
- MR. MILLER: Okay. All right. I'll save the rest
- 19 for cross-examination, Your Honor.
- 20 THE COURT: Are you still interposing an objection,
- 21 or is your objection withdrawn?
- 22 MR. MILLER: I think that there is still not an
- 23 | adequate foundation to connect it, or whatever is said on it,
- 24 to him.
- 25 THE COURT: I will overrule your objection. You may

- 1 play the tape.
- 2 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. TRUMP: (Continuing)
- 4 Q. Now, how long is this particular podcast?
- 5 A. Roughly 18 minutes.
- 6 Q. And the portion you wish to play concerns what?
- 7 A. Mr. Huynh talking about the gang, how he would never let
- 8 the beef between ADF go away.
- 9 Q. So this is how he would settle whatever beef there is
- 10 between the gangs?
- MR. MILLER: Actually, I object to the leading
- 12 | questions, Your Honor. He can just -- it speaks for whatever
- 13 it says.
- 14 THE COURT: Please stand if you are going to object,
- 15 Mr. Miller.
- MR. MILLER: I'm sorry, Your Honor. He's suggesting
- 17 | what he wants the witness to say to the Court. I think there
- 18 is --
- 19 THE COURT: Sustained. You may rephrase the
- 20 question.
- 21 BY MR. TRUMP: (Continuing)
- 22 Q. What do you believe, or what do you take from the phone as
- 23 | to why you characterize it as "beef"? What did you mean by
- 24 beef?
- 25 A. A beef --

- 23 the Eden Center that she was going to send either one of her
- 24 sons to Guong's nail salon and shoot up the whole family and
- 25 everybody there because she couldn't let her younger brother

- 1 | die like that.
- 2 Q. And at the time, it was believed that Gung was responsible
- 3 | for Phuoc's murder?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Now, the brother you mentioned earlier, does he have any
- 6 | connection to this investigation?
- 7 A. Yes, he does.
- 8 Q. In what respect?
- 9 A. He worked on the marijuana farms in Hayfork, California.
- 10 Q. And how do you know that?
- 11 A. When we made arrests, we interviewed people, and they told
- 12 us he was there.
- 13 Q. And without naming the other defendant, was there a
- 14 defendant in this case to whom he's delivered money?
- 15 A. Yes, there is.
- 16 Q. And when, approximately, was that?
- 17 A. That was approximately May of this year.
- 18 Q. And how do you want that?
- 19 A. We seized that person's phone, and we saw the checkmarks
- of who he was supposed to pick up money from.
- 21 Q. And that was the defendant's brother?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. The Vape in Paradise business, are you familiar with that?
- 24 A. Yes, I am.
- 25 Q. Where was that located?

- 1 A. That was located on top of Cafe Metro inside the Eden
- 2 Center.
- 3 Q. And what -- what do you know about that business?
- 4 A. That's where they sell drugs. His uncle was selling the
- 5 | cocaine there. He was dealing there too. He got that store on
- 6 | top because the previous business there was no longer there.
- 7 Q. And have you done record checks with local authorities as
- 8 | well as Virginia authorities to determine whether the defendant
- 9 had any legitimate business or employment?
- 10 A. Yes, I have.
- 11 Q. To your knowledge, has he ever had any legitimate
- 12 employment?
- 13 A. No, he has not.
- MR. TRUMP: That's all I have, Your Honor.
- 15 THE COURT: Thank you. Cross-examination.
- MR. MILLER: Thank you.
- 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. MILLER:
- 19 Q. Now, you said that he was picked up on some intercepts
- 20 | with Phi; is that correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. Okay. What do you mean by intercepts?
- 23 A. Title III intercepts.
- Q. Okay. And what did he -- what was the nature of the
- 25 | conversation on the Title III intercepts?

- 1 A. With Mr. Huynh?
- 2 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. It was surrounding marijuana, picking up money, in his
- 4 | words "paper," to give back to his uncle.
- 5 Q. So he didn't use the word "marijuana," he didn't use the
- 6 | word "money"?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And your interpretation of the conversation is that that's
- 9 what he meant?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. And he wasn't charged in that case?
- 12 A. No, he was not.
- 13 Q. And he wasn't charged as a result of the convictions and
- 14 cooperations in that case either, was he?
- 15 A. No, he was not.
- 16 Q. Okay. Now, the photograph with the Guy Fawkes mask, did
- 17 | you know that that was being prepared as an album cover for a
- 18 gangster rap video?
- 19 A. I did not know that.
- 20 Q. Okay. Now, the -- what would you say is his position --
- 21 do you say is his position in the Reccless Tigers?
- 22 A. He's pretty high up there. We have been told he's a five
- 23 | star general or a lieutenant.
- 24 Q. And where did you get that information?
- 25 A. DD had told us, David Nguyen had told us that he was a

- 1 five star general. Other cooperators told us that he was high
- 2 up in the gang too.
- 3 Q. Okay. And his exact precise position isn't known, just
- 4 | that he is high up, is that what you're saying?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. Okay. And that's from individuals who were cooperating
- 7 | with you in this investigation?
- 8 A. I wouldn't say David is cooperating.
- 9 Q. I'm sorry?
- 10 A. I wouldn't say David Nguyen is cooperating.
- 11 Q. Okay. But you're talking about others?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. All right. Now, you say that in May of 2017 there was a
- 14 | fight in the Eden Center?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. Okay. That's not in D.C.?
- 17 A. No, that's not.
- 18 Q. Okay. And that's not the D.C. conviction?
- 19 A. No, it's not.
- 20 Q. Okay. And was there video of the fight in the Eden
- 21 Center?
- 22 A. No, there was not.
- 23 Q. Okay. So how do you know what happened at the fight on
- 24 | the 22nd of May 2017?
- 25 A. Witnesses there identified his mother and him and his

- 1 brother.
- 2 Q. As being present?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. Okay. Didn't say exactly what they did though, did they?
- 5 A. No.
- 6 Q. Okay. So they were present when there was a fight?
- 7 A. Yes. And Detective Ed Lancaster had a telephone
- 8 conversation with Mr. Huynh afterwards.
- 9 Q. Okay. But he wasn't charged with the Eden fight, was he?
- 10 A. No, he was not.
- 11 Q. And his mother wasn't charged?
- 12 A. No, she was not.
- 13 Q. And his brother wasn't charged?
- 14 A. No, he was not.
- 15 Q. All right. Now, there was another event that you talked
- 16 about in August, an August event, 19th of August. What was
- 17 | that?
- 18 A. You're talking about August 2011?
- 19 Q. Yes.
- 20 A. That was a traffic stop at that time, Police Officer
- 21 Byerson had made a traffic stop on him, and he assaulted
- 22 Officer Byerson.
- 23 Q. Okay. And do you know, was that traffic stop caught on a
- 24 dash cam by the police?
- 25 A. I do not know.

- 1 Q. Okay. And you haven't reviewed a dash cam to see what
- 2 happened?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. All right. Now, you say that in April of 2017 at a
- 5 | concert there was a fight?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. He was present?
- 8 A. Yes, he was.
- 9 Q. Okay. Do you have video of that?
- 10 A. No, I do not.
- 11 Q. And so -- and he wasn't charged?
- 12 A. No. No one was charged.
- 13 Q. So no one was charged. And the next day at The Block in
- 14 Annandale there was a fight?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. And there is no -- he wasn't charged with that event
- 17 | either, was he?
- 18 A. No, he was not.
- 19 Q. Okay. And he didn't have any firearm then, did he?
- 20 A. Not that I know of.
- 21 Q. Okay. Now, what's the answer then on the 27th of November
- 22 2017?
- 23 A. Repeat that question again, sir.
- Q. Yeah. 27 November 2017, you talked about an incident that
- 25 occurred then.

- 1 | A. November 20 --
- 2 O. 27 -- December 27.
- 3 A. December 27. That was the fight at the Way of Inc.
- 4 Q. Okay. And no one identified him as being present?
- 5 A. We have him on video.
- 6 Q. You have a video, but you don't have his face? You said
- 7 that you believed it was him?
- 8 A. No, we have his face on video.
- 9 Q. You have a video of him being -- and what did -- what are
- 10 you saying that he did then?
- 11 A. He was beating up Mr. Peter Le.
- 12 Q. Do you know why?
- 13 A. There was some turmoil within the gang that Mr. Huynh felt
- 14 Mr. Peter Le disrespected him.
- 15 Q. Well, how do you know that?
- 16 A. Through interviews with other people.
- 17 Q. So other people were telling you what they think was going
- 18 on between these two guys?
- 19 A. Correct.
- 20 Q. Okay. And Peter hasn't said that, has he?
- 21 A. No, he has not.
- 22 Q. Okay. So you don't know really -- and those people
- 23 | weren't necessarily there, that was just their opinion about
- 24 | what they thought might be going on, street rumor; isn't that
- 25 correct?

- 1 A. Correct.
- 2 Q. Okay. There can be a lot of street rumors in groups and
- 3 organizations, not all of it's true; isn't that correct?
- 4 A. That's true.
- 5 Q. All right. Now, you talked about bank records. How did
- 6 you get the bank records?
- 7 A. We got grand jury subpoenas for them.
- 8 Q. All right. And they showed money being wired to
- 9 California; is that correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. In the amounts of 6,000, \$9,000?
- 12 A. Fluctuates, correct.
- 13 Q. Right. Now, wasn't that part of the vaping business?
- 14 A. That was part of the vaping business?
- 15 Q. Yeah. Wasn't that money being sent as part of the
- 16 proceeds from the vaping, Vaping in Paradise, I think it was
- 17 | called?
- 18 A. I do not believe so.
- 19 Q. You don't believe so, but you don't know?
- 20 A. I do not know.
- 21 Q. Okay. No one has told you where the money came from or
- 22 | what it was for?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Okay. Now, you said that his brother worked in marijuana
- 25 in California. When was that?

- 1 A. That was sometime last year. I do not have the specific
- 2 date.
- 3 Q. Okay. Which brother was that?
- 4 A. That was Johnson.
- 5 Q. Johnson?
- 6 A. Johnson.
- 7 Q. Not Phillip?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Okay. And Phillip is not involved in this stuff?
- 10 A. Phillip works at a car dealership, but he has received
- 11 money from Mr. Huynh.
- 12 Q. But do you know why his brother gave him money?
- 13 A. I do not know.
- 14 Q. Okay. Have you ever known anybody's brother to give them
- money?
- 16 A. I do.
- 17 Q. Okay. Sisters too?
- 18 A. Yes, but not in that amount.
- 19 Q. What amount was it?
- 20 A. It was high, it was in the thousands of dollars.
- 21 Q. Okay. How do you know?
- 22 A. Through the bank records.
- 23 Q. Okay. And do you know why he needed the money?
- 24 A. I do not know.
- 25 Q. Okay. Now, Phillip has worked at that dealership for a

- 1 | period of time; isn't that correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. All right. Now, when his brother Johnson was in
- 4 California, California has legal marijuana; isn't that correct?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. For medical use and for recreational use?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. And there are a lot of legal grow operations in
- 9 California, aren't there?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And people go out there and work out there and then they
- go back to wherever they came from, don't they?
- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. All right. Now, you claim that there were statements that
- 15 his mother made. Do you have a recording of those statements?
- 16 A. No recording, sir.
- 17 Q. Okay. So that's street rumor?
- 18 A. Those are interviews of confidential informants.
- 19 Q. Right. Talking about stream rumor?
- 20 A. If you say so.
- 21 Q. Well, you've debriefed people before, I dare say, right?
- Okay. So you ask them, where were you? What did you see?
- 23 | What did you hear? What do you know? What's going on? What's
- 24 | the word on the street about this, that, or the other? You ask
- 25 | questions like that during a debriefing, don't you?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Okay. And sometimes you get things that are accurate and
- 3 | sometimes you get things that are not accurate?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. Okay. And that's not been verified by anyone, by any
- 6 | video or any audio or anybody saying -- or any admissions;
- 7 | isn't that correct?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. Now, you were talking about checkmarks on
- 10 | somebody's phone about delivery of money?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. All right. So what do you mean "checkmarks"?
- 13 A. The phone that we seized, the individual was known to
- 14 | collect money for the group.
- 15 Q. How were they known to collect money for the group?
- 16 A. Through interviews, through our investigation, that was
- 17 | the information we had. And this individual had on the phone
- 18 places to go to go pick up, and the content of the text
- 19 conversations with other people.
- 20 Q. Okay. Now, the gang that you're talking about, the --
- 21 | well, the Dragon Family, the Asian Dragon Family, the Reccless
- 22 | Tigers, and so on, they're Northern Virginia?
- 23 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And you said the Asian Boyz, they're California?
- 25 A. Correct.

- 1 Q. And so, the connection that you are claiming is California
- 2 | to here and here to California?
- 3 A. The connection came from California to here.
- 4 Q. Okay. Now, you don't have any Title IIIs of him where
- 5 | it's his voice saying anything that is connected to this
- 6 indictment, do you?
- 7 A. No, I do not.
- 8 Q. Okay. And you don't have any Title IIIs of others talking
- 9 about him and facts related to this indictment?
- 10 A. No, I do not.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you don't have any cell phone records that
- 12 | create a chart of him having conversations back and forth with
- 13 individuals involved in this case for the last two years, do
- 14 vou?
- 15 A. We do have cell phone records of him speaking with other
- 16 Reccless Tigers members.
- 17 Q. When? What year?
- 18 A. The past two years.
- 19 Q. The past two years. But you don't know the content?
- 20 A. No, we do not.
- 21 Q. Okay. There are gang people that have been in gangs,
- 22 motorcycle gangs, and not all of them are involved in anything
- 23 other than just being in the gang; isn't that correct?
- MR. TRUMP: Objection, Your Honor. We're not talking
- 25 about motorcycle gangs.

- 1 THE COURT: Overruled. You may answer the question
- 2 | if you are able to.
- 3 BY MR. MILLER: (Continuing)
- 4 Q. There are members that have been -- people who have been
- 5 involved in gangs that weren't involved with criminal activity,
- 6 | they were just a member of the gang?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Okay. Hold on just a minute, please. One second, Your
- 9 Honor.
- 10 After his uncle was killed, he didn't go out and
- 11 | shoot anybody, did he?
- 12 A. Not that I know of.
- 13 Q. Okay. And when he was shot, you don't -- you're not sure
- 14 | what that was all about, are you?
- 15 A. Correct.
- MR. MILLER: Okay. No other questions.
- 17 THE COURT: Any redirect?
- MR. TRUMP: No, Your Honor.
- 19 THE COURT: You may step down.
- NOTE: The witness stood down.
- 21 THE COURT: Does the Government have any further
- 22 | evidence with regard to detention?
- MR. TRUMP: No, Your Honor.
- 24 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, does the defense wish to
- 25 present any evidence with regard to detention?

1 MR. MILLER: Just a little bit by way of proffer, 2 Your Honor. 3 In the motion there is the second -- there are two 4 letters, the last of which is from James Le Chen and Mike 5 Nguyen in New Jersey. And I would proffer that the real estate that they wish to offer, that they have over -- or 6 7 approximately \$300,000 worth of equity in it. There is a 8 single lien from a financial institution on the mortgage that is less than 30 percent of the value. And that the approximate 9 10 appraisal value is about \$440,000. 11 I don't have all the documents to establish that, but 12 that's my understanding of the appraised value. This is 13 September, August -- I think in July, June or July of this 14 vear. 15 I will then -- I would proffer that to the Court. And then I will use that in my argument about conditions of 16 17 release. 18 THE COURT: Very good. Mr. Trump, I'll hear from you 19 first with regard to argument. 20 MR. TRUMP: Judge, we submit there are no conditions 21 or combination of conditions that would satisfy the two prongs 22 of the statute, safety and risk of flight. 23 First, this is a presumption case, and the defendant 24 stands charged with an offense for which, if found guilty, he 25 would serve a minimum sentence of ten years.

His criminal history is relatively extensive. While he hasn't served a great deal of time, he does have multiple convictions, including felony convictions for drugs. I note that he had at least four or five failure to appears, one escape. And while they were resolved with the underlying cases, he did have one revocation of his -- a prior suspended sentence back in 2014.

More importantly, Judge, the defendant has been involved in gang activity for a long time, and a lot of it involved violence. He has been both a participant, an instigator of violence, as well as a victim of violence.

And as we've pointed out, this case and some of the gang activity involved violence. For example, the concert and the incident the day after, the defendant is on video involved in violent actions.

In term of risk of flight, the defendant has handled hundreds of thousands, if not more than, a million dollars in financial transactions. While Mr. Miller could argue that it's proceeds of his vape business, I highly doubt that. Structured transactions of cash between here and California were not the proceeds of a legal vape business.

For all these reasons, Judge, we ask that the defendant be detained.

THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Miller.

MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.

While we don't know if they were structured transactions, and we don't know what the source is, we do know he was in business. And we do know, given the current news, that it's a really big and lucrative business about vaping.

And there is all kinds of controversy about its health and all that stuff. But the key think about that that we know from the news reports is how pervasive it is and how lucrative it is.

Insofar as gang activity. For example, the party at
The Block the day after the concert, he was present. There was
no indication he did anything. Being present isn't enough.

The real thing that I would ask the Court to look at is he has a bunch of petty charges. They are generally old.

He's rapping on about his uncle in that audio. A lot of people vent. A lot of people not from my generation do everything online and do everything in videos and audio and things like that people would say, but wouldn't necessarily be published and so on.

So what we have here is a situation where he has got two friends that are willing to put forward a considerable asset.

In the <u>Truong</u> case, which I mention in my memo, which was in this court, and the defendant was accused of being a spy for Vietnam against the United States during the Vietnam war, and what we did was we posted assets with the Court such that the Court would have immediate access to the asset upon

violation of a condition of release.

And Judge Bryan was the judge. Justin Williams was the prosecutor. I was in the case as defense counsel initially. And Mike Tigar came in, one of the most brilliant lawyers I've ever had the pleasure of working with. But we created the assets, which I think were bonds and a whole bunch of other things, maybe even some real estate, and put it with the court.

We have a significant asset that these people are willing to put forward for him. It is in New Jersey, but it can be a deed to the court that can be recorded so the court doesn't have to go through any process to access the asset.

And the asset in that case -- in this case is greater -- I think it was for -- in  $\underline{\text{U.S. v. Truong}}$ , it was like \$250,000. Here it would be around \$300,000.

If the Court is willing to accept that in principle, he would be living with his brother Phillip who has, as the agent said, straight guy, works in the car dealership. He would have available some employment at a nail salon in Northern Virginia.

So what we are asking the Court to do is we don't really have any convictions for flight or convictions for fugitive status where he was gone away, and people said this is really bad, you're going to get ten days of contempt, or you're going to get 30 days as sometimes happens in Fairfax where a

- 1 lot of this stuff happened for people that just don't show up.
- 2 People miss dates, they get FTAs against them. And then if
- 3 | it's a really bad situation, the court does something about it.
- 4 But you will notice that they are not that category
- 5 because even the D.C. assault where he got the six months
- 6 unsupervised probation, he was out after they found him and he
- 7 came back here and they resolved the case.
- 8 We don't have him on any wiretaps. We have a lot of
- 9 | street rumor. We don't have videos of him involved in drug
- 10 activity.
- So our situation is where we can give the Court a
- 12 | really substantial asset, these people are willing to risk
- 13 | it -- it's not a small thing. It can be deeded to the court.
- 14 Now, there would have to be, obviously, a title search. We'd
- 15 | would have to provide, in addition to the title search, the
- 16 bank loan information. That has been requested. But as
- 17 anybody who has gotten to the point of ever having a house
- 18 knows, getting them to get the paperwork and get it out, it
- 19 doesn't happen in a day.
- 20 And today is Friday. We were in court yesterday. I
- 21 | learned about this on Wednesday. I got retained yesterday
- 22 morning. The requests were made, but it's going to take awhile
- 23 | for the paperwork to happen. And of course, nothing would
- 24 happen to him until everything was present to satisfy the Court
- 25 about the value, about the clean title, and that there would be

1 set up a deed of the interest of the owners to the court.

Now, it would have to be, of course, recorded in New

Jersey and have to be verified and recorded that it was

available to the court without anything to happen. It's not

like we would do a pledge. We would actually do the paperwork

like we did in the Truong case to vest it in the court.

And then in that case, when everything was over, it took I think two weeks to get it so it could all be released through the Clerk's Office.

But we would propose to do all of that in this case.

And that is not ordinary, but it is permissible and the rules allow it.

And so, if someone is willing to put that much of a stake in the Court's hand to assure his compliance, then that is a more than reasonable basis, with electronic GPS detention, to assure where he'll be, when he'll be under house arrest.

And for someone who is not affiliated with any of the activity in this case -- because other than the relationship -- and that would put him in a position different than others that have come before the Court, and would allow him to be able to have this Court have assurance that he would comply with the conditions set.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Does the Government wish to be heard?

MR. TRUMP: Your Honor, I don't know if the Court is even in a position to take a deed of property as bond.

But property offered by a third party where we know nothing about the relationship between the third party and the defendant, property with very little equity compared to the type of proceeds that have been involved in this case, I don't think is any surety at all.

THE COURT: Am I correct that the Bail Reform Act that governs detention in this case was passed after the <a href="https://doi.org/lumphrey">Truong/Humphrey</a> case that you've referred to, Mr. Miller?

MR. MILLER: Yes, it was. But --

THE COURT: And I would note, simply for the record, and it does not count against you at all, that Frank Dunham was one of the lead counsel in that case.

MR. MILLER: Yes, he was. He and I had quite an interesting set-to right when David was brought up for the Rule 5 hearing. Justin intervened and calmed both of us down.

That's another story. That is a good story, but that's not -- I'll mention that to you sometime.

But the Bail Reform Act allows any and all kinds of conditions and terms. And is even broader than the Act before because of that catchall, which basically allows anything the Court wants as a condition. And that Act expands past what was available before.

THE COURT: Thank you. This matter comes before the

Court on defendant's request for release. And I've listened carefully to the arguments of counsel, and considered the information in the Pretrial Services report, and I've also taken into consideration the evidence presented by the special agent, as well as the allegations in the indictment.

This is a presumption case, and that is a difference between the Bail Reform Act of today and the way in which bond was imposed prior. It is not dispositive, and a presumption can be rebutted, but the nature of the offense in this case has to be taken into account.

And the question is whether or not the information that has been presented by defense counsel, including posting a secured bond in the form of a deed of trust, along with the other proposals, are sufficient to allow the Court to fashion conditions that would address both the danger to the community and his risk of flight in this case.

I find that there are no conditions or combination of conditions that can address both of those issues. This is a serious case. It involves serious allegations of drug trafficking. And it involves the allegations of a gang, which there is compelling evidence this defendant has been a member of, along with other gangs that have engaged both in illegal conduct and violent conduct.

It is also clear, based on the evidence before the Court, in Mr. Huynh's criminal record, that he himself has

48 engaged in numerous acts of violence, including an assault on a police officer, amongst many other allegations and evidence of violence. I find that a secured bond and the family's support, while admirable, cannot sufficiently protect against the danger to the community of the defendant's release. I also find that he poses a risk of flight based on his criminal history, and based on the charges in this case, and his access to significant financial transactions. I would note for the record that he himself disclosed to Pretrial Services that the vape business was closed as it was not bringing in enough revenue. And so, that seems to be at odds with the argument that the enormous amounts of financial transactions were based on legitimate earnings. So for all these reasons, the testimony provided and the information in the Pretrial Services report, I find that the presumption has not been rebutted, and I find that the defendant poses both a danger to the community and a risk of flight. He will be returned to the custody of the Marshals until further action in this case. Court will be in recess.

NOTE: The hearing concluded at 3:03 p.m.

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CERTIFICATE of TRANSCRIPTION I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript that was typed by me from the recording provided by the court. Any errors or omissions are due to the inability of the undersigned to hear or understand said recording. Further, that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the above-styled action, and that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the above-styled action. /s/ Norman B. Linnell Norman B. Linnell Court Reporter - USDC/EDVA